

and Literacy Volunteers of the National Capital Area. DC Fire/EMS Educators and literacy volunteers are working with low-literate adults in the District to teach fire safety skills. On November 30, the first of these training sessions was held, and on December 9 there was a reception for the program in the Community Room at Engine 24. The students were taught: cooking safety, evacuation procedures in the home, smoke alarm safety, electrical safety, winter/holiday safety and general housekeeping. In addition, students were introduced to the Department's "Make the Right Call" campaign with the 911-Simulator.

#### Support for Troops

Thank you to members of Engine 10 and Truck 13 for their generosity in support of troops in Iraq. They contributed a car full of gifts and creature comforts to be sent to Lance Corporal Justin Palmer and others serving with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, Golf Company in Ramadi, Iraq. Battalion Chief Gary Palmer, Fire Prevention Division, is Lance Corporal Palmer's father.



Battalion Fire Chief Frank Tremel celebrates 42 years of service. Friends held a dinner for him at Engine 11 on August 19.



Retired DC Firefighter Jackson Gerhart was laid to rest December 9 in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Gerhart suffered a head injury operating at a fire with his volunteer company in Chambersburg on November 30. He passed away on December 5 at the age of 65. Gerhart was appointed to DCFEMS on February 3, 1963 and retired as the wagon driver of Engine 17 on September 30, 1994. As a line of duty death, Gerhart's name will be inscribed on the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland next year.

#### Smoke Alarm Donation

The District of Columbia Insurance Federation (DCIF) announced on November 18 that they will donate more than \$7,000 thousand dollars worth of smoke alarms and batteries to the Department. These smoke alarms will be given free of charge to DC homeowners as part of our Smoke Alarm Give Away Program.

#### DCFEMS 4-1-1

The Department regrets the passing of the following retired members: Battalion Fire Chief Oscar M. Settle Jr. who passed away November 28, 2004, and Firefighter Jackson H. Gerhart who passed away on December 5, 2004.



# BEACON

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Engine 12 served as the backdrop for Mayor Anthony Williams' address to those gathered for Fox-5's annual "Stuff-A-Truck" holiday food drive at Brentwood Plaza on December 17. Many members of the department, including Engines 12 & 26, Truck 15 and the HazMat helped carry bags of food for distribution to needy families.

#### Expanding ALS Resources

On December 5, two more paramedic engine companies (PEC) went in-service, bringing the total number of first response fire apparatus carrying a paramedic to six. The new PEC's are PE10 and PE22. There is now one PEC unit responding 24 hours a day, seven days a week in each battalion.

The "One-Plus-One" staffing program will also expand next year. New "One-Plus-One" units will be added, and plans are being finalized to add more ALS resources over time with the goal of an all-ALS first response system. This is an important component of our ability to provide ALS care to everyone who needs it.

"Bottom line," says Fire/EMS Chief Thompson, "we're able to get more paramedics to more patients more often, and that translates to better medical care for the people we serve."

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★★★ **Adrian H. Thompson,**  
Fire/EMS Chief  
**Anthony A. Williams, Mayor**

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Please e-mail your births, deaths, retirements, marriages or other personal news to share to [gwendolyn.smith@dc.gov](mailto:gwendolyn.smith@dc.gov). Submissions are requested no later than the third Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m.

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The holiday season is a time when there are more opportunities for injury. The weather is cold; space heaters are being used. More electrical devices are also being utilized. The recent developments in EMS provision, in coordination with the department's aggressive fire prevention and outreach programs, will provide citizens and visitors a safer environment in which to enjoy the holidays.

## Engine Company 3 Among Region's Oldest, Most Noted Fire Companies



Engine 3 celebrated its bicentennial on November 17 with the help of several past and current members of the community on Capitol Hill it serves. Pictured above L-R: Engine 3 Captain Greg Mutchler, Fire Chief Adrian Thompson and FFA Museum Administrator Walter Gold.

Engine 3 traces its roots back to 1804 and formation of the volunteer Columbia Company. First located east of the US Capitol Building, Columbia Company and Engine Company 3 have been protecting the Capitol and people who work, live and visit Capitol Hill since the genesis of the fire service in the Nation's Capital. The British burned the original firehouse in 1814 and in 1871 Columbia Company became Engine Company 3 of the newly professional District of

Columbia Fire Department. Today, the company calls a 1916 firehouse at 439 New Jersey Avenue, NW home.

Engine Company 3 is also home to the city's first fire service museum dedicated to the men and women of the DC Fire & EMS Department. In honor of the occasion, the museum presented the Office of the Fire Chief with a framed original 1929 letter written to DC Fire Chief Engineer George S. Watson by then US President Herbert Hoover. The letter, recently discovered after being lost for more than 60 years in a scrapbook, thanks the Department for responding to a Christmas Eve 1929 fire in the White House.

## Farewell!

Jim Chaney and Billy Bonner were honored December 7 with a retirement luncheon at Phillips Flagship Restaurant in southwest Washington. Chaney retires with 38 years of service, and Bonner retires with 37 years.



Pictured left to right are DFC Frank Tramel, Chaney, Bonner, FC Adrian Thompson, and Bob Cooper.



**PROJECT HARVEST:** Members of Cadet Class 11 learned a "caring" attitude first-hand during the Department's annual participation in Project Harvest, November 22-23. Cadets worked at the MPD Boys and Girls Club and the Old Post Office Pavilion helping to load food and sort it into baskets for the needy.

## Customer Service

Tisa Smith, DC Fire/EMS Information and Privacy Officer, won \$277 dollars in just seconds inside DC Lottery's Wild Money Machine on October 8. Her name was chosen in a random drawing of DC government employees who were being recognized that day for their work with Mayor Williams' Constituent Services Program. She says, "It was going so fast everything was slipping through my fingers. But then, I noticed the money was floating up from the floor and brushing against me. So as it came up, I scooped what I could, and stuffed it inside the jumpsuit they gave me." What a wonderful way to be rewarded for outstanding service!! Ms. Smith is featured in the December issue of Lotto People.

## Do you know who your HIPAA Officer's are?

District's Privacy Official — Mr. Gerry Roth, DC Office of Healthcare Privacy And Confidentiality Management (202) 727-7171

FEMS' Privacy Officer — Ms. Tisa B. Smith  
DC Fire and EMS — Information and Privacy Officer  
(202) 673-3320

## 50th Annual One Fund Campaign

REMINDER!

The One Fund is the District government's only official charitable fund-raiser. DC government employees pledge their support annually to not-for-profit, charitable organizations in the Washington area. This year's theme is "50th Year of Sowing Seeds ... DC One Fund." Every contribution, no matter the size, helps charitable organizations in the Washington area help those in need. Please contribute. Contributions will be accepted through January 2005.



Congratulations to (left to right) Firefighters Colin St. Clair (RS1), Dennis Carmody (E2) and Sgt. Roger Anderson (DFC Aide) for completing the Marine Corps Marathon October 31. All three completed the 26.2 mile race without need of medical attention. Congratulations also to Firefighter David Keefe (E16), who decided to run at the last minute and completed the final 20 miles of the course!

## Project Literacy Grant Partnership Program

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